

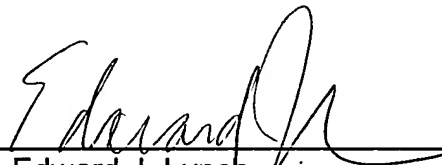
REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested. No new matter is introduced by these claims.

Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Patent Office the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and request that they be considered by the Examiner. Copies of the references are not enclosed because each of the references was previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in prior application Serial No. 09/717,909, filed November 20, 2000, which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 USC 120. This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)(3), therefore no fee is due.

Applicants believe that the pending claims are directed to patentable subject matter. Consideration and an early allowance thereof are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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